DECLARATION

OF

THE LORDS OF HIS

MAJESTIES

PRIVIE COUNCELL

AND

Commissioners for conserving the Articles of the Treatie:

FOR

The Information of His Majesties good Subjects of this Kingdome.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie. 1643.

At *Edinburgh* the ninth day of *June*, 1643.

THe Lords of His Majesties Privie Councell, and Commissioners for conserving the Articles of the Treatie, Ordaines this following Declaration to bee printed and published at the market crosse of Edinburgh, and other Burghes of this Kingdome, for the information of all his Majesties good Subjects within the same.

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Arch. Primerose Cler. S. Cons. & Commis.

He Lords of His Majeſties moſt Honourable Privie Councel, and the Commiſſioners for conſerving of the Peace, according to the great truſt repoſed on them by His Majeſtie and the Eſtates of Parliament, whereof they are to make account to God and His Majeſtie the next enſuing Parliament, Taking to their deepeſt and moſt ſerious Conſideration the beſt wayes of preſerving the Peace of this Kingdome, That all His Majeſties good and dutifull Subjects may enjoy their Religion, Liberties, and Lawes, which GOD in a ſingular and wonderfull Providence in the time of His Majeſties Raign hath vouchſafed them, And of the Peace betwixt the two Kingdomes ſo unanimouſly and happily eſtabliſhed in the late Treaty of Peace, and in the Parliaments of both Kingdomes, Have faithfully endeavoured by all good means to reduce Ireland to His Majeſties obedience, which through the unnaturall, barbarous, and Antichriſtian crueltie of Papiſts, is from a peaceable Kingdome turned into a ſtage of unexampled and unexpreſſible miſeries, to be looked upon as an horrid and dangerous example by this Kingdome, And by their earneſt ſupplications to His Majeſtie, and their

Declarations to the Parliament of England, but especially by their earneſt deſires for eſtabliſhing Unity of Religion and Uniformitie of Kirk-government, and for disbanding all Papiſts in Arms within their Dominions, and by the humble offer of their mediation to remove the unhappy differences, and quench the fire of a waſting Warre, begun betwixt His Majeſtie and His Subjects of England, wherein His Majeſties ſacred Perſon is expoſed to ſo great danger, and ſo many thouſands of His Subjects have already periſhed: But finding to their great grief the ſucceſſe no way anſwerable to their endeavours and expectation, and the trouble of the neighbouring Kingdomes, and the dangers of this Kingdome daily ariſing to a greater height, then they by their care, counſell, and diligence, were able to remeid or obviate, they did reſolve for this and other cauſes, which exerciſe and heavily preſſe the Kingdome at this time, to call a convention of the Eſtates, as the only meane (His Majeſtie not thinking fit to hearken unto their motion of calling a Parliament) which might by common counſell, conſent and reſolution, take the beſt courſe for repreſenting yet more ſenſibly theſe manifold evils and dangers, and for over-coming by greater wiſedome the difficulties which were above their power.

In the mean while (which they cannot but attribute to the mercifull and marvellous Providence of GOD, and which is a confirmation to them of their reſolution in calling a convention, and layeth the greater neceſſitie upon the Eſtates to meet the more willingly and frequently) a treacherous and damnable Plot of the Iriſh, Engliſh, and Scottiſh Papiſts, is begun to be diſcovered, by the unexpected apprehending of the Earl of *Antrim* coming from York, where he had keeped his meetings

meetings and correſpondence by Letters, with certain Popiſh Lords his confederates, and amongſt others, with the Earl of *Nithiſdail* and Vicount of *Aboyne*, Their devilliſh deſigns and devices are come to light, & brought to our knowledge, partly by Letters from Ireland, ſhewing the depoſition and confeſſion of a ſervant of the Earl of *Antrims*, and partly by Letters which were found in the Earl his own pockets, all ſent to them from Ireland: His ſervant who was hanged at Carrick Fergus the day of May, deponed (as the Letters beare) before and at the time of his death, that the deſigne was to reconcile the Engliſh and Iriſh in Ireland, that they by their joynt power, having expelled the Scots, the Iriſh Forces there might be ſent againſt the Parliament of England to deal with ſome fit inſtrument there, by all their ſtrength to ſurprize the Iles and the High-Lands, and to depopulate and waſte ſo much of this Kingdome as their power could extend unto, being aſſured of the like dealing in the North, by the Papiſts and their aſſiſtance there, And to have a Magazine at Carlile for twenty thouſand men, to fall in with all hoſtilitie upon the ſouth parts of this Kingdom. The Letters ſent from *Nithiſdail* and *Aboyne*, all written and ſubſcribed by their hands to the Earl of *Antrim*, and found with him, although in ſome things covertly written, do carry this much expreſly, That for furtherance of the deſigne & point reſolved on, there was aſſiſtance aſſured from the Iles, & from the North, and South of Scotland, That Ammunition and Arms, without which they think their ſervice uſeleſſe, were appointed to be ſent to the North, and other parts of this Kingdome, And that Popiſh Officers were commanded, and had undertaken to go into Scotland; of which we are informed, ſome are already gone to the North, for ſtopping and diſ-

appointing ſo far as may be for the preſent (till the ſame divine providence make a more full diſcoverie) the attempts and devices of this unnaturall and bloudie confederacie and conjuration. As the Lords of His Majeſties Privie Councell have given order that *Nithiſdail* and *Aboyne* be cited, and criminally purſued of high treaſon, and have made the ſame as a matter of publick and moſt high importance known to his Majeſtie and to the Parliament of England; ſo they and the Commiſſioners of Peace alſo, for acquitting themſelves in their truſt, and for the ſafety of the Kingdome, do make the ſame publickly known to all his Majeſties good Subjects, that being forewarned of their danger, they may be upon their guards, and prepared againſt forraigne invaſion and inteſtine plots and inſurrection: And eſpecially, that the Noble men, Commiſſioners of Shires, and Burrows, perceiving greater and more apparent neceſſitie of the approaching Convention then they could have wiſhed or expected, May at the day formerly appointed, meet in ſuch celeritie, and with ſuch publick affection and diſpoſition of heart, as the preſent condition of affaires doth require, and call for at their hands, and as beſeemeth the lovers of their Religion, King, and Countrey, which are in ſo great danger, from Papiſts, Atheiſts, and other degenerated Countrey men, who are no leſſe enraged againſt this Kingdome, even ſince the late Reformation of this Kirke, then were their Predeceſſours at the firſt reformation of Religion, when their Negotiating was ſo reſtleſſe, and their attempts ſo many, and malicious againſt the work of God in this Land: Nor is it to be paſt without obſervation, that while His Majeſtie is making a publick Declaration of His intentions to defend and maintaine the Religion, Rights and Liberties of this Kingdome, according to the Laws,

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civill and eccleſiaſtick, The Papiſts are conſpiring, plotting, and practiſing againſt the Religion, Rights, and Liberties eſtabliſhed, and againſt the lives of His Majeſties good Subjects; whereby they do really manifeſt to the world what the Kings Majeſtie againſt His Declarations, and His Subjects againſt their confidence grounded thereupon, may look for from their malice and power, if they ſhall continue in Armes, and (which God forbid) if they ſhall prevail in the end. And whereas the Lords of Councel are informed, that the late Act of Councel for publiſhing his Majeſties Declation is miſtaken by ſundrie, as a Declaration of their own judgement, concerning the proceedings of another Kingdome; For preventing of this miſtake, They think fit to remember and declare according to the Act of Councel in Januarie laſt, ſhewing that their Lordſhips giving warrant to print any Paper comming from His Majeſtie, or Parliament of England, did not import their approbation of the contents thereof: That they did on the firſt of June, both remember the ſamine, and expreſſe their intention in this Publication to be farre from taking on them to judge of the proceedings of the Parliament of another Kingdome; but only to thank His Majeſtie for His gracious expreſſions towards the preſervation of the Rights, & Liberties of this Kingdom: And ordaines this to be printed and publiſhed at the Market Croſſe of Edinburgh, and all other Burghs within this Kingdome, for the information of his Majeſties Subjects within the ſame.

FINIS.